



3652
\$

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Akihiro OSAKA et al.

Group Art Unit: 3652

Application No.: 10/073,876

Examiner: J. Krizek

Filed: February 14, 2002

Docket No.: 105913.01

For: SEMICONDUCTOR MANUFACTURING METHOD AND SEMICONDUCTOR
MANUFACTURING APPARATUS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RECEIVED

MAR 30 2004

GROUP 3600

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO-1449. Unless otherwise indicated herein, one copy of each reference is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

☒ 1. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection, Notice of Allowance or other action that closes prosecution (e.g., Quayle Action).

☒ a. I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(1).

☒ b. Attached is our check no. 152591 in the amount of \$180.00 in payment of the fee under 37 CFR §1.17(p). Please credit or debit Deposit Account No. 15-0461 as needed to ensure consideration of the disclosed information. Two duplicate copies of this paper are attached.

- ☒ 2. English-language Abstracts of the non-English language references are attached hereto.
- ☒ 3. A computer-generated English translation of the following Japanese Patent Publication has been obtained from the website of the Japanese Patent Office (<http://www.jpo.go.jp>), and is attached, but has not been reviewed for accuracy. See References 1 and 2..

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Holly N. Moore
Registration No. 50,212

JAO:HNH/cfr

Date: March 26, 2004

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

**DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE
AUTHORIZATION**

Please grant any extension
necessary for entry;

Charge any fee due to our
Deposit Account No. 15-0461

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Sheet 1 of 1

Form PTO-1449 (REV. 8-83)		US Dept. of Commerce PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTY DOCKET NO. 105913.01		APPLICATION NO. 10/073,876	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (Use several sheets if necessary)				APPLICANT(S) Akihiro OSAKA et al.			
				FILING DATE February 14, 2002		GROUP 3652	
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS	
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB CLASS	
	1	JP 09-293772	11/11/1997	JAPAN			
	2	JP-10-335429	12/18/1998	JAPAN			
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)							
EXAMINER					DATE CONSIDERED		
Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with M.P.E.P. 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.							

Date: March 26, 2004**BEST AVAILABLE COPY**